



homeWORD

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EXHIBIT 4
DATE 3/10/09
HB 569

March 9, 2009

Jon Sesso
Appropriations Committee

RE: HB 569

Dear Chairman Sesso and Committee Members:

I am writing today to express support for funding the Housing Montana Fund.

As a Montana housing provider we are continually challenged with creating and maintaining affordable housing in a climate of increased land costs, construction costs, financing costs, while at the same time experiencing fewer dollars to support this effort.

The State of Montana is one of the few in the country that does not have a state fund to support efforts to create affordable housing for those on fixed incomes or work force housing. This mechanism is incredibly important to further the construction of new units while at the same time preserving existing affordable housing stock.

House Bill 569 suggests \$10 Million be transferred from the state general fund. That is an appropriate transfer for two reasons. The first is that through the general fund, Montana controls how the funds get disbursed and managed. It limits the Federal 'red tape' and allows Montana to tailor the Fund for housing projects that are specific to Montana needs. Secondly, the Housing Montana Fund is set up as a revolving loan fund so the \$10 Million appropriation will allow affordable housing development and preservation for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andrea Davis
Executive Director